#### **WINTER 2020 & SPRING 2021 MAGAZINE**



## Welcome

2020-2024
West Allis Mayor and

**Common Council** 

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414-302-8290
ddevine@westalliswi.gov

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Angelito Tenorio
414-737-0210
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Fourth District Thomas G. Lajsic 414-327-2661 tlajsic@westalliswi.gov

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Fifth District Kevin Haass 414-704-1164 khaass@westalliswi.gov

Rosalie L. Reinke 414-543-0587 rreinke@westalliswi.gov



Dear Residents,

While it's normal to get sentimental at the end of a year, like 2020 itself, this year is different. I think many of you will join me in saying "good riddance!" to 2020 and racing ahead to what we hope will be a better year in 2021.

For many, this was a year of loss. Class of 2020 seniors lost the opportunity to celebrate graduation in traditional ways. The summer events we all look forward to so much weren't possible. Many faced layoffs or job losses. And sadly, some of us lost loved ones to the coronavirus pandemic. To anyone who experienced loss this year, our thoughts are with you.

But as humans do, we moved forward. In a year of such sorrow, we found joy in helping one another. In this issue, you'll find countless examples of how our City departments and members of the community stepped up to serve through this unimaginable year. The West Allis Rotary Club provided much-needed assistance to the West Allis Fire Department; an Eagle Scout focused his service project around the West Allis dog park; and the West Allis Health Department exemplified the spirit of service as they guided our community through the pandemic.

Day, Friday, Jan. 1, 2021 for New Year's Day and Monday,

We will continue to face challenges as we enter 2021. With extensive revenue losses and unforeseen expenses due to the pandemic, we are working to adjust our services to remain fiscally secure but our commitment to our residents remains unchanged. One adjustment you can expect is related to this publication. To save costs, we will only distribute two print issues of It's Your City next year. But we will continue to keep you informed and engaged through social media, our website, virtual and in-person events, and our monthly e-newsletter. Small shifts such as this will allow us to continue to offer other services. we know you value and rely on.

If we've learned anything as we approach 2021, it's the importance of having things we can depend on. In West Allis, we've always relied on one another to get through tough times, and in doing so, we've learned that tough times always end. I hope any hardships you've faced this year fade as we enter 2021. Wishing you a wonderful, safe, and happy new year.

Sincerely,

Pan Plevine
Mayor of West Allis

Want to know what's happening in the City? Sign up for the latest news at www.westalliswi.gov/notifyme

**HOLIDAY CLOSURES** 

Sign up to receive emergency text or email notifications at www.westalliswi.gov/civicready

#### **Connect with us**

















## What's New In Your City

Help keep your neighbors safe by making a pledge to adopt a fire hydrant

near your home and commit to cleaning the hydrant of ice and snow so the West Allis Fire Department can easily access it in case of emergency. Businesses are encouraged to adopt hydrants too! Sign up for this program and take the pledge at www.westalliswi.gov/adoptahydrant.

## New Community Space Coming to Burnham Pointe

In fall 2019, the City partnered with Better Block to host a visioning event for the Burnham Pointe area at 60th and Burnham. Working with residents and following the results of a resident survey, the City and Better Block created temporary enhancements, such as bike lanes, a children's play area, a food truck court, additional seating, and lighting, to imagine what this corridor could become. For two days, the area was lively with food, music, dancing, and fun, and the focal point of the entire event was the City-owned lot at 61st and Burnham St.

Based on feedback from that event, the City is moving forward to create a permanent public space in the 7,148 square foot lot at 61st and Burnham St. The City has partnered with landscape architecture firm Parkitecture + Planning to breathe life into this lot. Play elements, landscaping, seating, lighting, and other amenities will be installed in 2021 to create a space for residents of all ages to play, relax, and gather. Tax dollars will not be spent on this project, which is funded by Community Development Block Grant funds.

#### **WELCOMING NEW BUSINESSES**

Camino

7211 W. Greenfield Ave.

**MKE CoWork** 

7311 W. Greenfield Ave.

Al Pastor

6533 W. Mitchell St.

Barbie's 2nd **Time Around** 

1412 S. 73rd St.

Carrie's Crispies

7133 W. Becher St. Holiday Inn &

**Suites Express** 10111 W. Lincoln Ave.

The Gage 1139 S. 70th St.

**Mission BBQ** 2927 S. 108th St.









## SUPPORT CITY EVENTS! PURCHASE OUR 2021 FUNDRAISING CALENDAR!

2021 is your year! Keep track of all your 2021 activities with purchase for only \$8. Buy two calendars for \$10 or three calendars for \$12. All proceeds support City events.

Purchase your calendars today! Order online at www.westalliswi.gov/2021calendar or visit West Allis City Hall (7525 W. Greenfield Ave., 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Police Department. It's Your City: West Allis, Wisconsin 3

#### Mackenzie Clyde Day:

Held Jan. 17, honoring Mackenzie Clyde, a brave young lady battling childhood cancer.

#### Ground **Breaking:**

Ground breaking at Cobalt Partners Allis Yards redevelopment project at 70th St. & Greenfield Ave.

#### **Senior Center Meal Program:** The West Allis Senior

Center meal program transitions to grab-n-qo. Will serve 69% more meals this year than 2019.

**Mayor Devine** 

Reelected:

Mayor Dan Devine

reelected

to another

#### **Grand Openings:**

Grand opening of The Gage, MKE CoWork, Al Pastor, Barbie's 2nd Time Around, Mission BBQ Carrie's Crispies. Holiday Inn Express, and Camino.

#### **Restart Grants:**

Small business Restart grants launched to assist small businesses with immediate financial assistance.

**Drive-Thru** Flu Shots: Three public drive-thru flu

clinics hosted

by the West

Allis Health

Department.

**Public** 

**Zoom Meeting:** 

First public Input

meeting utilizing

Zoom for Burnham

Pointe Neighborhood

and McKinley Park.

## **Benches:**

**Book Benches** installed at the West Allis

## **Book**

Public Library.

#### **National Ave.:**

National Ave. Phase 3 completed from 76th St.-82nd St.

#### Common Council:

Three new alderpersons elected to the West Allis Common Council.

#### **Drive-Thru Voting:**

West Allis drive-thru voting to serve the

#### New PD K9:

K9 Chaz joins the West Allis Police Department.

#### Mask **Drive-Thru:**

Free Mask Drive-Thru giveaway August 6, 11, 16.

#### **Mural Project:**

Four new murals installed in West Allis as part of West Allis **Living Streets** Mural Project.

#### **Demolition Complete:**

Demolition of the former east office building Allis Chalmers is completed, making way for the future Hilton Home2 Suites Hotel and Allis Yards (Cobalt) project.

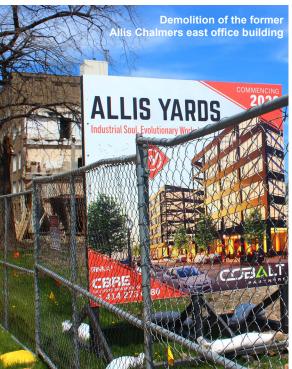














## FAIR HOUSING MONTH CONTEST

The month of April is designated as Fair Housing Month to commemorate Congress passing the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which includes the Fair Housing Act. To celebrate this significant movement in history, the Community Development Authority of the City of West Allis has annually sponsored a Fair Housing Month poster, essay, and video contest. The purpose of the contest is to demonstrate non-discriminatory housing for all people regardless of race, sex, color, national origin, disability, or family status. Any student in grades K-12 in schools within or contiguous to the West Allis-West Milwaukee School District were encouraged to enter. The theme for the 2020 contest was: Together We Make A Neighborhood.



## THE HOUSES AND PEOPLE ON MY STREET

By Jeremias Londono Pardo Madison Elementary School Fifth Grade

When I walk home I see a variety of different house colors and materials but all are filled with loving caring families that are diverse. These are the houses and people on my street.

Fair housing means we all have the same opportunities no matter the race, color, ethnicity, and religion. An example of fair housing is people not being told that an apartment is rented when its not, just because of gender and race.

Another reason that fair housing is important is because you get to play with people that have different genders, race, ethnicity, and religion around your neighborhood. For example there is people in our school that are different genders or races like Puerto Rican and so on. We learn so much together and we live nearby.

By living nearby we learn about people's culture and for example I have a friend that is Puerto Rican and every time I go to play with him his mom serves for lunch Puerto Rican rice. I never knew Puerto Rican rice was so delicious so it's important to learn about each other positively in your neighborhood.

In conclusion, fair housing is important because we learn about each other and just because we're all different doesn't mean we all get equal housing and this builds a better community.

Mackenzie Nunez
First Grade
Longfellow Elementary School
Longfellow Elementary School

Elitar Wolf
Second Grade
Madison

6 Its Your City, West Alis, Wisconsin

#### City of West Allis Director of Development John Stibal to Retire

By Jenny Kosek

For over three decades, John Stibal has overseen the City of West Allis' growth and development initiatives, utilizing his skills as a collaborator, negotiator, and community promoter to retain and attract key businesses, secure new projects, and redevelop blighted properties. From attracting Quad/ Graphics, the City's largest private employer, to fostering the revitalization of the former Allis Chalmers complex into 680,000 square feet of modern office space that is now the City's largest tax payer, John has led significant transformation of the community. These efforts amount to over \$400 million in tax increment district growth and millions more in private investment. Between 2014 - 2019, Stibal attracted more than \$214 million in private investment on behalf West Allis.

John built private and public relationships that often involved innovation or creative solutions. He secured millions in grants for the City to help alleviate public costs associated with brownfield redevelopment. As Chairperson of the Wisconsin Brownfield Study Group Financial Committee, which was created by the Wisconsin Legislature to advise the governor, legislators, and state agencies, on how best to tackle the cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated properties throughout the state, John advocated for and saw the adoption of key legislation called the Voluntary Party Liability Exemption that remains an important tool to attract private investment to environmentally-challenged properties.

A great example of John's ability to build partnerships is his role as president of the regional community development entity, First-Ring Industrial Redevelopment Enterprise, Inc. (FIRE). Formed in 2007, FIRE has received nine New Market Tax Credit (NMTC) allocations totaling \$323 million. It is one of only three entities in the country to receive an allocation in each of the last seven rounds of funding distribution. To date, FIRE has financed 33 different projects totaling \$481.6 million in low-income communities throughout Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine

counties. FIRE's financing has led to 3.1 million square feet of development, renovation, or expansion in these communities, as well as the creation and retention of 8,691 iobs.

In West Allis, John spearheaded the development of the West Allis Dog Park, Joyce Radtke Skate Park, and the Veterans Memorial Park Monument. He played key roles in major commercial redevelopments in the City, such as Element 84, The West Living, Toshiba, Chr. Hansen, and the Cobalt Partners redevelopment along S. 70th St., all of which have served to transform the image of the City and position it for future growth.

Throughout his career, John has been a tireless promoter of programs and initiatives designed to benefit disadvantaged populations, senior citizens, and promote fair housing and additional job opportunities for the community. John's work included managing the City's Fair Housing and Section 8 assistance program; leading the Library Square, Carnegie Library, and Beloit Road senior housing developments; and working with businesses to connect with economic redevelopment loans to create and retain jobs.

We thank him for his years of service to the City of West Allis and for the crucial role he played in our redevelopment efforts. We wish him a long, happy, and healthy retirement.



John Stibal, fourth from the left, poses with Mayor Devine and team members of the West Allis Development Department at the groundbreaking of the Mandel project



John Stibal, first from the left, attends Cobalt development groundbreaking

# In honor of Tom Kaifesh and his dedicated work for the City of West Allis, the new police department training facility is named after him

#### TOM KAIFESH TRAINING FACILITY

On Tuesday, Oct. 20, the new police department training facility was named the "Tom Kaifesh Training Facility." As Lead Carpenter for the West Allis Department of Public Works (DPW), Tom Kaifesh paved the way partnering with the West Allis Police Department in the creation of this essential training tool. Along with the experienced carpenters at DPW, Tom began working on the facility in late summer of 2018. The facility is two stories high and 3,000 square feet. The exterior resembles a typical two-story home, but the interior is an open concept that allows police to configure a wide variety of training scenarios. The structure contains two staircase configurations, including a straight staircase and a staircase with a landing, so first responders can practice moving stretchers in these different circumstances. The facility will also be equipped with cameras so staff can record scenarios to review and discuss training strategies.



#### **West Allis Downtown Winter News**

The West Allis Downtown Business Improvement District's (BID) soup crawl will be back again in 2021! The West Allis Downtown BID's Souper Wednesday Soup Crawl will be held Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021 from 5 - 8 p.m. Tickets will go on sale mid-December 2020. Sample delicious seasonal soups from West Allis restaurants.

For more information or to purchase tickets for the soup crawl, visit westallisdowntown.com/west-allis-winter-week.







## Dedicated to Our People and Our Communities

Be something greater. Be Quad.

Quad is proud to be a part of the West Allis Community.

This publication is printed by Quad.





By mid-December, property owners, home owners, and business owners will be receiving their 2020 property tax bills. Here's what you need to know:

#### Due dates for tax bills:

Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021: 1st installment or in full Wednesday, March 31, 2021: 2nd installment Monday, May 31, 2021: 3rd/final installment

#### WAYS TO PAY

- Online at www.westalliswi.gov/mytax. eChecks are processed at no cost. Service fees apply for credit card payments.
- At Tri-City Bank locations throughout West Allis, including those branches inside Pick 'n Save stores, through Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021.\* Tri City Bank offers shorter lines, longer hours, and an immediate refund if escrow check is larger than the tax bill.
- By mail to West Allis City Hall, 7525 W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis,
   53214.
- In-Person at City Hall.\* Payment can be placed in the 24-hour drop box near the main entrance to City Hall, or made in-person at the Customer Service Center in City Hall, Monday Friday, 11:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m.

In order to be credited with a 2020 tax payment, the payment must be received, paid in-person at any of the locations noted above, or placed in the drop box located near the main entrance of City Hall by Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020.

The Lottery Credit is allowed on a primary residence only. If a tax bill does not include a Lottery Credit but should, the taxpayer needs to contact the Treasurer's Office at City Hall prior to Friday, Jan. 29, 2021, for a form and an immediate Late Claim Credit to the tax bill. If a bill includes a Lottery Credit in error, the taxpayer should also contact the Treasurer's Office at City Hall to resolve the issue without future penalties from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue

The First Dollar Credit is allocated to every parcel of real estate on which improvements are located in an amount determined by the State of Wisconsin. The First Dollar Credit is shown on property tax bills as a reduction of property taxes due.

Visit www.westalliswi.gov/mytax to learn more.

Mailing address changes need to be requested through the City Assessor's office. Please call 414-302-8230 for more information.

\*City Hall will be closed on Dec. 24 and 25 and Jan. 1 and 18. Tri City Bank locations close Dec. 24 at 2 p.m. and are closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.



#### **Caring for Your Health**

2020 has been an extremely difficult year. As the year ends, emotions may be running high, and the onset of winter and the holiday season may bring additional feelings of sadness or anxiety for some. There is no shame in seeking help when substance abuse and mental health challenges begin impacting your daily life. Help is available, close to home.

The West Allis Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task Force reminds residents that many community resources are available to assist those struggling with mental health or substance abuse issues, or their loved ones. If you are in need of help:

- Dial 2-1-1 or visit 211 now.org to access 211's resources. This free, confidential helpline and online resource directory makes it easy for residents to get connected to information and assistance. 211 can connect you with mental health and substance abuse resources, as well as assistance with housing and shelter, transportation, food insecurity, healthcare, disaster, and more.
- Visit www.westalliswi.gov/ stopthestigma for a list of local resources for families, employers, LGBTQ residents, and seniors or caregivers who may need assistance with mental health or substance abuse issues.

## Construction Updates, Delivered

Never be surprised by the dreaded orange barrels again: sign up to receive weekly Construction-in-Progress reports right to your inbox. We'll keep you up to date on the progress of local and state construction projects in West Allis so you can be aware and plan ahead.

Sign up at www.westalliswi.gov/notifyme.

# West Allis Health Department ISBS 10 ISBS 10 FF

By Jenny Kosek



The first positive case was March 14.

On that date, the West Allis Health Department (WAHD) was notified that a West Allis resident had tested positive for the novel coronavirus. Within a few days, a second case was confirmed. Then another.

WAHD Deputy Health Commissioner Ashley Palen recalled, "The first few cases really didn't cause alarm. West Allis Health Department staff are well-versed in communicable disease follow up, and we followed standard protocol in following up with those first few cases. Then things started to close."

By March 16, local municipalities had ordered mass closures of schools, businesses, seniors centers, and other facilities in an attempt to stop the spread of the coronavirus. By then, the virus was already entrenched in communities, and continued to spread.

The WAHD has always played a vital role in supporting the health of the West Allis and West Milwaukee communities they serve. The WAHD provides health inspections, education, resources, vital records, immunizations, and numerous other services to "protect and promote," as their slogan says, the health of all people. In 2020, the call to protect and promote rang more loudly than ever for the staff of West Allis Health Department.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, public health departments across the country have received federal funding and placed renewed emphasis on the importance of emergency preparedness planning, including planning for contagious disease events. As the novel coronavirus pandemic unfolded, the



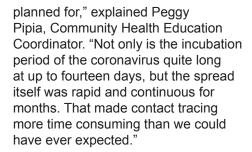
WAHD faced a challenge they could not have prepared for. "This is a new virus," said Palen. "As the World Health Organization (WHO) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) began researching the virus, information changed almost daily. We were able to quickly implement several protocols we had prepared for in prior emergency training, but still had to meet daily with our team to share updates about this virus and evolving recommendations related to it."

Training scenarios had not prepared WAHD for what is known as "long-term communicable disease tracing," which would be key to fighting the virus. As health professionals learned more about the coronavirus and how it spreads, "contact tracing" – the process of identifying people who may have come into contact with an infected person and collecting information about those contacts at WAHD had prior experience with this process. The WAHD responds to cases of communicable diseases, such as tuberculosis, by working with infected individuals to understand what interaction that person may have had with others, the WAHD can follow up with anyone who may have come in contact with the infected person. This practice limits the spread of such diseases by allowing anyone who may be at risk of spreading the disease to take precautions, rather than going about their daily activities and potentially infecting others. This practice is hugely important in slowing the spread of the coronavirus, but as cases mounted and months passed, it became very challenging for public health nurses to keep up with the

"The duration of this is something we could not have





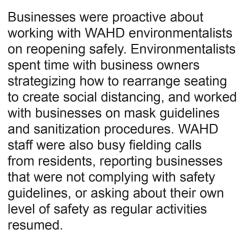


To assist the public health nurses, 12 staff from other WAHD divisions were trained to perform this work. In addition, federal funding was received to hire 15 additional contact tracers. The contact tracer team worked around the clock to follow up with individuals who tested positive for the coronavirus and anyone they may have come in contact with while contagious.

While contact tracers were hard at work, other WAHD staff were busy providing information to businesses and residents to help them stay safe during the pandemic. "Every new headline prompted new questions," recalled Public Health Specialist Frances Thomas. "We had to work to help people understand that information that changed was not information that was wrong. Our understanding of the virus simply changed as more time passed and more research was done."







Using federal funding, the WAHD also launched public education efforts about mask safety and steps to take to reduce transmission of the coronavirus. Banners, mailers, and social media messaging were produced in Spanish and English. The Liberty Heights Neighborhood Association partnered with the WAHD to deliver nearly 1,000 kits that contained information, hand sanitizer, and masks in the Liberty Heights area. The WAHD worked with senior living facilities to provide masks for residents. Through mask drive-through giveaway events, Little Free Libraries, and other outreach events, the WAHD distributed thousands of free masks this year.

Although the WAHD did not offer coronavirus testing, a partnership with





the National Guard allowed for three days of free, drive-through testing at State Fair Park in August. Over 1,000 tests were administered.

As the pandemic challenged the community, the WAHD also worked closely with City departments to provide referrals and resources to residents. Closer collaboration made it easy for the WAHD to refer those in need to housing, utility, and other resources provided by the City.

"The partnerships we've built with other City departments and local and national organizations have been a silver lining of the pandemic," noted Thomas. "WAHD has always worked closely with community partners, but we strengthened those relationships and built new ones during this crisis."

Indeed, relationships have driven WAHD through 2020. Though faced with an uphill battle because we are dealing with a new virus, the staff at the West Allis Health Department are dedicated and passionate professionals who will continue to do their best to address this public health challenge. Health Commissioner Bob Leischow reminds everyone that we're all in this together and calls on residents and businesses to continue doing their part to stop the spread.

# Fun with kids

# Fun with public health campaigns





## **Public Service with a Smile**

By Jenny Kosek

After 36 years with the West Allis Health Department, it's not surprising that Community Health Education Coordinator Peggy Pipia has made many friends and connections. What might be surprising is how many of them are dogs.

An avid walker, Peggy can often be seen getting her daily steps on walks around the neighborhood surrounding West Allis Health Department. Along the way, the animal-loving Pipia met many canine neighbors. "I would meet the dogs first and then get to talking with their owners," she laughed.

Peggy has touched many lives, both four and two-legged, throughout her career in public health. With her boundless energy and warm smile, Peggy has been a recognizable figure in West Allis and West Milwaukee as an ambassador for both communities and advocate for public health.

Peggy joined West Allis Health
Department full time in 1984, but her
connection to the department began
much earlier. "I was an intern in 1978,
then got to stay on for two years
under a grant," she recalled. As an
undergrad, Peggy had been pursuing
a career in physical therapy. When
she began her schooling, she didn't
know that a career in public health was
possible. "A professor talked about
public health in one of my classes and
I thought, 'That's what I want to do,'"
she said.

The fast pace and diverse tasks in her work with West Allis Health Department suited Peggy from the start. Early on, she spent a great deal of time in West Allis-West Milwaukee schools providing health education to students, including the pivotal human growth and development ("sex ed") curricula for middle grades and teens. Over time, Peggy began teaching numerous other health education programs for the community, including Infant Massage, CPR, Living Well with Chronic Conditions, and smoking cessation.

Peggy's compassionate and

personable teaching style made her a memorable instructor for her students. "I still run into people who quit smoking after going through my class, and it's so rewarding to see how well they're doing and what a difference it made," said Peggy. "Sometimes I'll see the infants from my infant massage classes when they're toddlers, then when they're in school. We've really built some life-long connections."

As the community changed over the years. West Allis Health Department responded with new programs and services to meet evolving needs. Peggy has been at the forefront of many of these new offerings. "In recent years we've seen an increased need for mental health and substance abuse services." remarked Peggy. In response, the West Allis Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task Force, of which Peggy is a member, was formed. The group, comprised of City staff, health care and public safety professionals. and community leaders, works to provide resources and education to decrease the stigma surrounding mental health and substance abuse issues in the community. The collaboration and community partnerships in this group and others she has served on are some of Peggy's favorite aspects of her work.

"I love working with community partners like Aurora West Allis Medical Center, local churches, and the school district. We look at the needs of those we serve and rise together to meet those needs," Peggy observed.

In Peggy's view, that collaborative spirit is one of the best things about the West Allis community. "This community has always been hard-working, service-minded, grounded people. West Allis people are always willing to help one another," she said.

After nearly four decades of service, Peggy will begin a new adventure in 2021: retirement. Her last day with West Allis Health Department will be Dec. 31. But a leisurely retirement is not in Peggy's future. Her passion for public health remains strong, and as a West Allis resident, she doesn't plan to go far. "I still have so many ideas and what I've always done is find places to help out, and jump in. That's what I'll keep doing." We certainly hope she does!





This year, the Rotary Club of West Allis received an \$8,000 grant from the Rotary Foundation's Disaster Fund which provided 900 face shields and 3,000 N95 masks to the West Allis Fire Department in response to an urgent request from Rotarian Mason Pooler, West Allis Fire Chief and Milwaukee County **Emergency Operations Center Logistics Section** Chief. These much-needed supplies were used throughout Milwaukee County in the fight against COVID-19. The Rotary Club of West Allis Foundation provided dollars from previous fundraisers and Rotarian contributions to allow for another 2,000 masks, and a special grant from Rotary District 6270 (one of the three Rotary International districts in the state of Wisconsin), enabled the purchase of 150 face shields, all of which aided first responders in fighting COVID-19.

With \$1,412.72 remaining from their Rotary Foundation's Disaster Fund grant, Rotary Club of West Allis donated these funds to the Crimson Charities Food Drive in July, which provided food for those in need residing within the east side of West Allis. Thank you, Rotary Club, for supporting our community!

The Rotary Club of West Allis has been helping the community since 1927. The club supports the community in many ways: by providing backpacks and school supplies to children in need in the community by donating warm coats for distribution by the West Allis Health Department to school age children, and creating and maintaining Little Free Libraries scattered throughout the community. These are just a few of the projects the club has done, and will continue to do as the needs of the community evolve.

If you have questions or are interested in finding our more about Rotary Club, contact President Don Drecktrah at 414-573-7477 or dondrecktrah@gmail. com or Nancy Rhodes, Past District Governor at 414-412-2691 or nancyrhodes1@outlook.com.

**NEW WEST ALLIS-WEST MILWAUKEE RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER** 

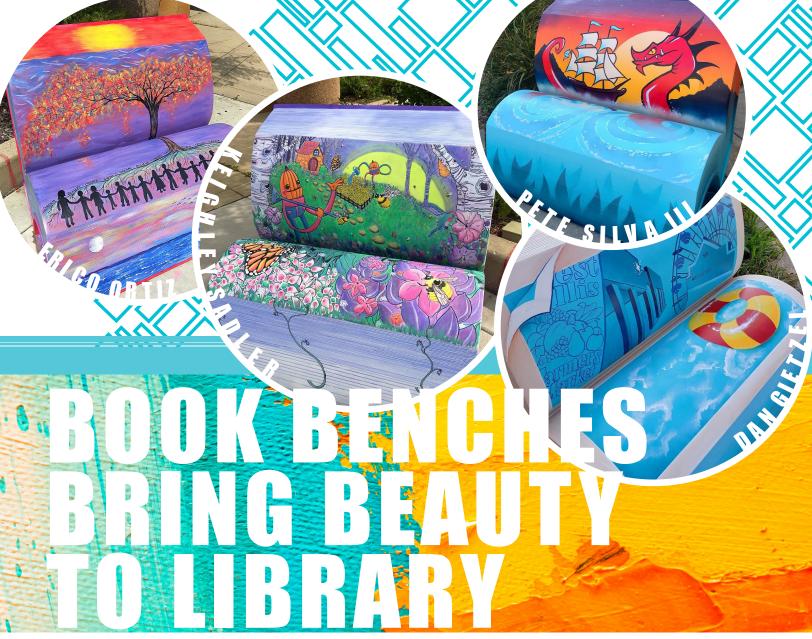
It is with great excitement and pride that WAWM RCS Department announce the completion and opening of the new West Allis-West Milwaukee Recreation and Community Services Center (WAWM RCS). The center has a 9,350 square foot gym lined for basketball, volleyball, and pickleball with a curtain to divide the space, a three-lane suspended walking track, a large multipurpose/meeting room with an attached kitchen, dance/fitness studio, art room, smaller meeting and classroom spaces, and is now the permanent home of their preschool program. The use of WAWM RCS logo colors and lightcolored woods throughout the building, along with the addition of many windows allowing for natural light to fill the building provide a warm, welcoming and upbeat feel. The existing portion of the recreation center got a complete facelift with new flooring, ceiling, paint, doors and windows, creating a seamless flow between the two structures.

A highlight of the interior design is the repurposed bricks from the massive retaining wall that formerly lined the property. The brick design commemorates a historical time in our country and the work of then-president Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration project of 1935, during the Great Depression. The WAWM RCS also continues to be home of the West Allis Fire Department's Survive Alive Fire Safety Education program.

WAWM RCS Department is ecstatic and cannot wait to hold a Grand Opening and welcome community members to tour the new center. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, WAWM RCS did a soft open in July 2020 for office operations and a few exercise classes. In alignment with the City of West Allis Health Department recommendations, programming in the new space has grown during the fall months. Please continue to follow WAWM RCS on Facebook and Instagram for additional details. Information will also be posted on their website at

wawmrec.com.

WAWM RCS Department would like to thank their neighbors, the residents of West Allis and West Milwaukee, the Board of Education, School District Administration, and the City of West Allis for all of their support of the project. WAWM RCS Department would also like to thank the teams at CGSchmidt Construction and Groth Design Group for making this happen and providing a center that the community can be proud of.



The City of West Allis Artscape Committee provided a grant to the West Allis Public Library for the creation of four book benches outside the Library. The concrete benches resemble big, open books and were painted by local artists. Library staff brainstormed a list of potential themes for each bench and voted to select the themes that would guide each artist. The themes and artists were:

Erico Ortiz, owner of Inspiration Studios art gallery and theatre in West Allis, painted the children's bench.

www.inspirationstudiosgallery.com

Pete Silva III, local artist and tattoo artist at Rockstar Tattoo & Co. in West Allis, painted the dragon-themed fantasy and adventure bench.

www.rockstartattoocompany.com/ portfolio/peter-silva-iii Keighley Sadler, local artist, illustrator, and bumblebee enthusiast, painted the garden bench.

www.cutesymacabre.com

Dan Gietzel, local artist and tattoo artist at Rockstar Tattoo & Co. in West Allis, painted the West Allis bench.

www.rockstartattoocompany.com/
portfolio/dan-gietzel



## **West Allis Public Library**

Stay cozy reading this winter and have a chance at winning great prizes while doing so! The West Allis Public Library will once again be offering a Winter Reading Program for all ages. Register at the Library or at **westallislibrary.beanstack.org** and track your reading to earn great prizes. Enrollment for the Winter Reading Program begins on Monday, Dec. 28 for kids, teens, and adults.

Parents, sign up your babies and toddlers for the West Allis Public Library's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. This is a multi-year, pre-literacy program designed for young children and their families. The program encourages families to read at least 1,000 books to their children before they enter kindergarten. Reading helps develop important pre-reading skills that provide a solid reading foundation - a key to school and learning success! The program has no end date except your child starting school, so no need to feel rushed. By reading just three books a day, you and your child will have read over 1,000 books in just one year! Sign up can be done at the West Allis Public Library or at westallislibrary.beanstack.org.

Stay up to date with the West Allis Public Library and West Allis Public Library Children's Services by following our pages on Facebook, or by checking our website for the most current information. Teens can find programming just for them on Instagram @wapl\_teenspace. The Library offers story times for young children, Art Cart events for school-age kids, and crafts for adults and teens. Find all of our programs at **westallislibrary.org**.

#### **LIBRARY CLOSURES:**

Thursday, Nov. 26 - Thanksgiving

Friday, Nov. 27 - Friday after Thanksgiving

Sunday, Dec. 20 - Sunday before Christmas

Thursday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

Friday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

Sunday, Dec. 27 - Sunday after Christmas

Thursday, Dec. 31 (close at 5 p.m.) - New Year's Eve

Friday, Jan. 1, 2021 - New Year's Day

Monday, Jan. 18, 2021 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

#### **West Allis Public Library**

7421 W. National Ave.

414-302-8503

westallislibrary.org

Library Hours (subject to change)

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Sunday (Oct. - April): 1 - 5 p.m.



Home baked goodies, shopping, decorating, and festivities make for a joyous holiday season. Here are some tips to help you celebrate safely this season.

#### If you're traveling:

- Get an automatic timer for your lights
- Ask a neighbor to watch your home
- Stop your mail delivery

#### If you're shopping:

- Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you
- Park in a well-lit space and be sure to lock the car and hide shopping bags
- Shopping with kids? Teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if separated

#### If you're out for the evening:

- Buckle up and put your cell phone away while driving
- If you choose to drink alcohol at a party, use a form of public transportation to get home
- West Allis Police arrest over 700 impaired drivers annually. Celebrate and drink responsibly.

#### If you're a victim of a crime:

- Call the police and make a report
- Contact your credit card company
- Notify the three major credit report bureaus to place a fraud alert on your cards

#### **ARE YOU BEING SCAMMED?**

According to the Federal Trade Commission, scammers make up all kinds of stories to get your money, from telling you that you've won a prize, you owe a debt, pretending to be calling from the government, or posing as a romantic interest or a family member in an emergency. Scammers want your money and want it fast, and they don't want you to be able to get it back. They'll ask you to pay in ways that make it hard to track them down, like paying in gift cards.

Gift cards are a popular and convenient way to give someone a gift. They're also a popular way for scammers to steal money from you. That's because gift cards are like cash: if you buy a gift card and someone uses it, you probably cannot get your money back. Gift cards are for gifts, not payments. Anyone who demands payment by gift card is always a scammer.

Here's what happens: the caller will often tell you to go buy a popular gift card, such as, iTunes®, Google Play®, or Amazon®. The caller will tell you to get the card at a particular store near you, like a major retailer. They may even have you buy several cards at several stores. Sometimes, the caller will stay on the phone with you while you go to the store. Once you buy the gift card, the caller will demand the gift card number and PIN on the back of the card. Those numbers let them immediately get the money you loaded onto the card. And once they've done that, the scammers and your money are gone, usually without a trace. Other kinds of scammers who might demand payment by gift card include:

- Callers pretending to be from a utility company, telling you to pay your bill by gift card or they'll cut off your power or water
- Sellers on online auction sites who ask for gift cards to "buy" big items like cars, motorcycles, boats, RVs, tractors, and electronics
- Someone posing as a service member to get your sympathy, saying they have to sell something quickly before deployment and needs you to pay by gift card
- Callers who say you've won a so-called prize for a sweepstakes you probably never entered – but first, you have to use a gift card to pay fees or other charges
- Someone buying something from you, probably online, who sends a check for more than the purchase price – and asks you to give them the difference on a gift card (that check will turn out to be fake).

These are all scams. If anyone tells you to pay by gift card, or by wiring money – for any reason – that's a sure sign of a scam. Report these scams to West Allis Police Department by calling the non-emergency line at 414-302-8000.



#### **West Allis WISH**

The City of West Allis has the second-highest number of domestic violence incidents in Milwaukee County. West Allis averages approximately 620 domestic violence incidents per year. The West Allis Police Victim Advocate Program provides victims of domestic violence with crisis intervention services, emotional support, safety assessments, safety planning, information to obtain a restraining order, assistance to victims accessing police interventions, and referrals for support services, such as support groups.

Domestic violence does not always look the same, however, there are some warning signs that may indicate you are in an abusive relationship such as having a partner constantly insult you, consistently track what you do and where you are, act jealous of your friends or family, or threaten to hurt you or themself if the relationship ends.

If you recognize one of these warning signs in your own relationship, fear for your safety, and want support or have questions, please call 414-302-8065 to talk with an advocate. You can also call the Sojourner Family Peace Center at 414-933-2722, a confidential domestic violence hotline available 24/7.

If you or someone you know is looking for a support group please call 414-302-8065 and get more information about WISH - Women Initiate Self-healing & Hope Domestic Violence Support Group. WISH is a support and educational group for women who are in an abusive relationship or have been in an abusive relationship. WISH provides a safe place to learn about the cycle of violence, gain self-awareness, and heal. Topics for group discussion include exploring different types of abuse, the effects of domestic violence on children, building healthy relationships, and learning effective communication skills.

WISH is an on-going and open support group. Free childcare services are provided for women with children and assistance with transportation is available to those women who do not have transportation. The group meets once a week on Mondays in West Allis. The group is offered both in-person and on a virtual platform at this time. All services are free and confidential.

To reserve a space, call 414-302-8065. This program is offered through the West Allis Police Department in partnership with the support of the Womans Club of West Allis.



The days of calling 911 and just demanding police, fire, or EMS services are over, but in a good way. Once connected to a West Allis 911 dispatcher, the dispatcher will ask you three very important questions. West Allis 911, what is the address of your emergency? What is the phone number you are calling from? What is your emergency?



Those three questions are the precursor to a series of additional questions that help you get a quicker police, fire, or EMS response. Each West Allis 911 dispatcher is a certified Emergency Medical Dispatcher and has specialized training on a product called ProQA, which focuses on medical questions and instructions. Callers should expect to be asked a series of questions that can help first responders gain valuable information about a situation, as well as receive very specific instructions to assist a patient through a medical crisis. The dispatchers can also talk callers through several different life saving instructions, including CPR, bleed control, and diagnosing strokes.



If you need to dial 911 and reach the West Allis 911 call center or dispatch, answer the questions and listen carefully to the instructions. Those questions and instructions can save a life.

## Streets

"West Allis Living Streets" (WALS) made West Allis a lot more colorful in 2020. Sponsored by the City's Artscape Committee, four new artworks were installed at various sites around the commercial corridor of West Allis.

Walls identified for the project included the west-facing wall of a commercial building at 7506 W. Greenfield Ave., the east-facing wall of the upcoming Reunion restaurant at 6610 W. Greenfield Ave., the south-facing exterior wall of the West Allis Towne Centre. located on the northeast corner of W. Greenfield Ave. and S. 70 St., and the large façade of the Noble Senior Living Facility (formerly the Lamplight Inn) at 7400 W. Greenfield Ave. The Noble Senior Living Facility, with its five-story wall, was reserved for a special artist invitation to Thomas "Detour" Evans of Colorado.

The WALS project was led by Wallpapered City, the artist-led working group that implemented the North Avenue Mural Arts District (NoMAD) in Wauwatosa last summer, as well as Black Cat Alley, Bay View Street Canvas, and other public and commercial art projects in the Milwaukee area.

"We have wanted to do this in West Allis for years, and we could not be happier to begin this work in 2020," said Mayor Dan Devine, a longtime supporter of strengthening arts and cultural opportunities in West Allis. "This project has been fantastic for our City."

#### **INVITATION TO DETOUR**

Thomas Evans, aka "Detour," was invited to paint the five-story wall of the Noble Senior Living Facility at 7400 W. Greenfield Ave. Detour, from Denver, COLO., is an all-around creative specializing in large-scale public art, interactive visuals, portraiture, immersive spaces, and creative directing. His focus is to create work where art and innovation meet. A born collaborator and "military brat," Detour pulls from every conceivable experience that shapes his landscapes and perspectives. The mural was inspired by a photograph of one of Detour's friends, John Chapman, and Chapman's son, Britton. Detour hopes people will relate to the piece through their own happy memories with loved ones.

#### **SELECTING THE OTHER ARTISTS**

An impartial jury comprised of West Allis residents, City staff, and local business owners reviewed nearly 100 submissions to select artists for the remaining three walls.

#### 7506 W. GREENFIELD AVE.

West Allis resident and artist Dan Herro was chosen to

paint "The Night Hare," a beautiful scene featuring a white rabbit and rich night sky on the Gartzke building, 7506 W. Greenfield Ave. Inspired by the natural world, Herro creates scenes that bring a sense of wonder, a place to slow down and to rest. "The Night Hare" is a story about a rabbit and the full moon. As Herro explained, "While resting in the glow of the moon, the rabbit observes a silhouette resembling himself in the volcanic plains of the moon's surface. This discovery brings about a realization that in some way, everything and everyone is connected."

Herro currently serves as Head Designer and Preparator for the Haggerty Museum of Art at Marquette University and is an active member of the Rainbow Gardens Neighborhood Association. In 2019, he led the creation of the neighborhood mural at the Rainbow Gardens pavilion.

#### 6900 W. GREENFIELD AVE.

Milwaukee artist David Mueller was selected to paint the Towne Centre shopping plaza's south-facing wall. Mueller's work has been exhibited locally and internationally in a variety of galleries, venues, and publications, and the artist self-describes as "a workingclass kind of artist." His quirky alligator mural, titled "Dile B for Birder," brought a sense of fun and whimsy to the wall.

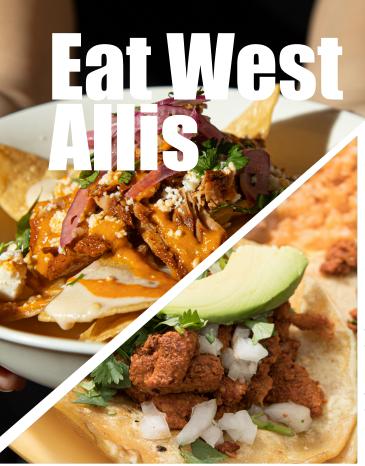
Mueller hopes viewers can look at the mural and understand that at times something ominous and scary has the potential to be welcoming and accessible. Mueller added, "The characters and situations we encounter in life may at first appear intimidating and unlikely, but they could end up being something attainable and symbiotic if we dropped some of our preconceptions."

#### 6610 W. GREENFIELD AVE.

Elmhurst, IL. based artist Jason Watts painted a State Fair-inspired mural on the building that (as of this writing) will become The Reunion restaurant at 6610 W. Greenfield Ave. Building owners Christopher and Abby Paul, who own the Italian restaurant Capri di Nuovo in West Allis, are converting the building, which was originally the Allis Chalmers Payroll Office, into a restaurant and entertainment venue to include an arcade, outdoor volleyball courts, and outdoor seating. Watts describes his artistic style as "as a mashup of the iconography, symbols and local references that are part of our past and present."

His mural, "Wonder Wheel," is intended to draw viewers into the kids running, with the central boy being the primary focal point of the composition. The boy is pointing to the right, where the Ferris wheel anchors on the right





## YOU'RE INVITED TO EAT WEST ALLIS!

Eat West Allis is a cooperative group of independent restaurants and specialty food retailers that work together to promote dining and culinary tourism in West Allis, Wisconsin.

Eat West Allis is compromised of brick-and-mortar owneroperators committed to providing unique, quality food products and experiences to West Allis residents and visitors. They are invested in the neighborhoods where their establishments are located and are a part of the West Allis community.

Eat West Allis comes together to host events in West Allis that promote their businesses and establish West Allis as a regional dining destination. One such event is Dine and Dash, held in May of each year, which invites teams of hungry competitors to "dash" from restaurant to restaurant tasting innovative and delicious creations. In 2017, over 250 people participated in this event. Additionally, in winter 2017, the West Allis Cheese and Sausage Shoppe hosted the City's first Christkindl Markt, a European-style Christmas market held outdoors at the West Allis Farmers Market. Eat West Allis members attended along with craftsmen and specialty food vendors from neighboring communities. Thousands of visitors attended this two-day event, and many vendors reported their highest sameday sales of the year. Eat West Allis plans to host more great food events in the future! For more information, visit eatwestallis.com.

#### **Sweet Delights at Carrie's Crispies**

Carrie's Crispies started in 2015 and is now open in West Allis. Located at 7133 W. Becher St., Carrie's Crispies offers exceptional gourmet rice crispie treats to satisfy your sweet tooth. A huge variety of options of flavors are offered including White Chocolate Cranberry, Pumpkin Spice and Salted Caramel Brownie. Carrie's Crispies also offers catering for events. Visit carriescrispies.com for more information.





#### **Camino Now Open**

Camino is an American craft beer bar and eatery, now located in your own backyard. To quench your thirst, the restaurant features an array of beer choices for any enthusiast. They offer a mixture of food options, from their starter menu such as spinach and pork pierogi, to their brunch menu serving crispy Brussels benedict. Camino strives to bring the freshest and most local products to your plate. Check them out at 7211 W. Greenfield Ave. and online at caminomke.com.







## **Farmers Market Weathers Challenging Season**

While the 2020 West Allis Farmers Market wasn't the lively gathering place we're used to, we are so grateful for the continued support from our customers throughout this season. The health and safety of our customers, vendors, and staff was our top priority and we know it was not easy to adjust to the ever-changing guidelines such as one way aisles, no eating in the market structure, limited capacity, and the mask mandate. Despite all the modifications and sacrifices, we are continually reminded how much this farmers market means to our community. Even though we were physically distanced and wearing masks, our customers were still able to connect with our farmers, food vendors, and the West Allis community as a whole.

Thank you for another amazing market season! We are looking forward to a bigger and better 2021 season. See you next year!

#### **Eagle Scout Brings Benches to Dog Park**

Among other requirements, a boy scout moving through the ranks of the Boy Scouts of America and seeking to earn the rank of Eagle Scout must complete a service project that benefits their community or another non-profit. For Cael Byrne, a project benefitting the West Allis Dog Park was a natural fit.

Cael's father, Derek, served on the planning committee for the West Allis Dog Park. The Byrne family are also proud dog owners. With his father's help, Cael connected with the dog park planning committee and asked if there were any amenities the park may need that Cael's project could help provide. Benches for dog parents to relax on while their pets enjoyed the park and shelving to store fresh water for thirsty four-legged visitors were in demand. Providing these items became the focus of Cael's project.

Each bench would cost about \$70 to produce, so fundraising was Cael's first obstacle. To kick off the project, he operated a GoFundMe campaign that raised over \$700. For additional funds, Cael attended the grand opening of the West Allis Dog Park on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019 and brought a "tip jar" that raised an additional \$230 in donations.

The West Allis Womans Club donated funds for one bench to honor their former president, Sandy Anderson, who passed away in November 2019. Sandy and the West Allis Womans Club had been instrumental in the creation of dog park, and Cael's project presented a perfect opportunity to honor Sandy's memory.

In spring 2020, in the shadow of COVID-19, Cael worked with his fellow scouts in Troop 595 to construct six wooden benches and three water jug shelving units for the dog park. On Friday, Aug. 21, the hard work came to a happy end when the benches and shelving were installed to be enjoyed by all who visit.



"Being an Eagle Scout is about inspiration, great ideas, and being prepared," reflected Cael. "I want to inspire my friends and younger scouts to show them how easy this (service project) is! We did all this in a couple of months."

Thank you, Cael, for making the West Allis Dog Park better than ever for two and four-legged guests alike!

#### **DOG PARK PASSES**

2020: \$5 per day or \$25 per year for residents and \$5 per day or \$35 per year for non-residents.

2021: \$5 per day or \$25 per year for residents and \$5 per day or \$50 per year for non-residents.

Prices are per dog. You must bring proof that your dog is neutered or spayed before you can purchase a dog park pass. Proof of current rabies vaccination is also required.

To purchase dog park passes visit West Allis City Hall, 7525 W. Greenfield Ave. or buy passes online when purchasing a dog license at www.westalliswi.gov/petlicense.

21

#### **Garbage and Recycling for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year**

Garbage and recycling collection is affected during holiday weeks. Crews may work ahead or fall behind due to the shortened work week. Below is a chart to help you determine when to set out your garbage and recycling. Find your regular pick up day, then set out your garbage and/or recycling on the adjusted day. If your items are not collected on the first day listed collection will take place the following day.

	Scheduled Collection Day	Adjusted Collection Day (if not collected on first day listed, collection will take place the following day)
Red Week	Monday, Nov. 23	Monday
	Tuesday, Nov. 24	Monday and/or Tuesday
	Wednesday, Nov. 25	Tuesday and/or Wednesday
	Thursday, Nov. 26	Wednesday and/or Monday, Nov. 30
	Friday, Nov. 27	Monday, Nov. 30
Black Week	Monday, Nov. 30	Tuesday
	Tuesday, Dec. 1	Tuesday and/or Wednesday
	Wednesday, Dec. 2	Wednesday and/or Thursday
	Thursday, Dec. 3	Thursday and/or Friday
	Friday, Dec. 4	Friday
Red Week	Monday, Dec. 21	Monday
	Tuesday, Dec. 22	Monday and/or Tuesday
	Wednesday, Dec. 23	Tuesday and/or Wednesday
	Thursday, Dec. 24	Wednesday and/or Saturday
	Friday, Nov. 25	Saturday
Black Week	Monday, Dec. 28	Monday
	Tuesday, Dec. 29	Monday and/or Tuesday
	Wednesday, Dec. 30	Tuesday and/or Wednesday
	Thursday, Dec. 31	Wednesday and/or Thursday
	Friday, Jan. 1	Thursday

DPW offices are closed, the Municipal Yard will be closed for drop-off, and garbage and recycling will not be collected on: Thursday, Nov. 26, Friday, Nov. 27, Thursday, Dec. 24, Friday, Dec. 25, and Friday, Jan. 1, 2021.

Inclement weather may further alter this collection schedule. Office hours and drop-off hours are subject to change due to staffing or weather. Please make garbage and recycling carts accessible to crews. Carts that are frozen to the ground or buried in snow can cause injury to the collection crew, or damage to the cart if they attempt to move it.

Questions or more information? Fill out the City's Let Us Help form at www.westalliswi.gov/letushelp.

Please note that City of West Allis offices are:

Open: Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 15 and Good Friday, Friday, April 2

**Closed:** Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24, Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25, New Year's Day, Friday, Jan. 1, and Martin Luther King Day, Monday, Jan. 18.



#### **SNOW EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

When approximately three inches of snow falls in a storm, the West Allis Department of Public Works usually plows all City streets and alleys.

A snow emergency is declared through the City's website, social media, and on network television when a full-scale plowing operation is initiated.

Once declared, all parking is prohibited on major emergency thoroughfares for the duration of the emergency.

For residential parking, normal alternate-side parking would be allowed during declared snow emergencies. Regular residential parking restrictions would apply for all overnight parking.

Snow emergency regulations supersede all other overnight parking regulations for the duration of the snow emergency.

On certain streets other than emergency thoroughfares where one side of the entire block is permanently posted "no parking any time" year-round, parking will be allowed on the opposite side during the declared snow emergency regardless of the calendar date on which the emergency is declared.

Visit www.westalliswi.gov for a listing of snow emergency thoroughfares. Sign up to receive snow emergency alerts at www.westalliswi.gov/notifyme.

#### SIGNS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

City of West Allis ordinance prohibits the placement of any sign, poster, banner or advertisement on any public property by persons other than employees of the City. Specifically, private signs such as rummage sale, garage sale, open house, house for sale, lost pet, and other types of advertisements may not be fastened to or erected on any public pole, tree, sidewalk, street, boulevard or other public property.

Signs illegally placed on public property oftentimes obstruct the vision of motorists, interfere with pedestrian traffic, and have caused damage to underground street light cables and underground sprinkler systems located in boulevards throughout the City. As a result, residents are cautioned that violation of this ordinance may result in fines of up to \$100. Furthermore, individuals placing illegal signs will be liable for any damage that may occur as a result.

It is not the intention of this ordinance to prohibit advertisement or restrict any type of enterprise; however, it is important to confine such activities to private property.





## CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Reminder: Christmas trees should be placed where garbage is collected - either at the alley if you have alley garbage collection or at the curb if you do not have an alley. Please do not place the trees in the street.



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### **DON'T MISS A THING!**

Subscribe to receive "It's Your City Monthly," the City of West Allis monthly e-newsletter



Sign up now! www.westalliswi.gov/notifyme

### **About It's Your City**

It's Your City is published by the City's Communications
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in the City's Five Year Strategic Plan, Image/Brand/Destination
and Citizen Engagement, as it seeks to highlight the positive
news, stories, and events in the City of West Allis.

It's Your City Monthly, an electronic supplement to the print newsletter, is emailed monthly.

#### Subscribe at www.westalliswi.gov/notifyme

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